

## Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County      City and County of Broomfield      Jefferson County  
City of Arvada      City of Boulder      City of Westminster      Town of Superior

### Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes

**Monday, November 3, 2003, 2003**

**8:40 - 11:20 a.m.**

**Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building  
Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield**

**Board members in attendance:** Hank Stovall (Director, Broomfield), Tom Brunner (Alternate, Broomfield), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Lorraine Anderson (Director, Arvada), Clark Johnson (Alternate, Arvada), Michelle Lawrence (Director, Jefferson County), Karen Imbierowicz (Director, Superior), Devin Granbery (Alternate, Superior), Jane Uitti (Alternate, Boulder County), Sam Dixon (Director, Westminster), Ron Hellbusch (Alternate, Westminster), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder).

**Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance:** David Abelson (Executive Director), Kimberly Chleboun (Program Manager), Melissa Anderson (Technical Program Manager), Barb Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C.).

**Members of the Public:** Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Davis (Kaiser-Hill), Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill), Chris Dayton (Kaiser-Hill), John Rampe (DOE), Joe Legare (DOE), Karen Lutz (DOE), Frazer Lockhart (DOE), Laurie Shannon (USFWS), Amy Thornburg (USFWS), Rob Henneke (EPA), Mark Aguilar (EPA), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), David Kruchek (CDPHE), Edgar Ethington (CDPHE), Patricia Rice (RFCAB), Jerry Henderson (RFCAB), Janel Rock (Broomfield), Gary Brosz (Broomfield), Shirley Garcia (Broomfield), Al Nelson (Westminster), Emelie Smith (Arvada), Bob Nelson (Golden), Linde Marshall (Senator Allard), Phil Cruz (RFSOIU #1), Dan Chesshir (RFSOIU #1), Sandy Dazzio (Wackenhut), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders).

### Convene/Agenda Review

Chairman Lorraine Anderson convened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

### Business Items

**1) Motion to Approve Consent Agenda -** Michelle Lawrence motioned to approve the consent agenda. Hank Stovall seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 (City of Boulder was not yet in attendance).

**2) Executive Director's Report -** David Abelson introduced the new Rocky Flats Site Manager, Frazer Lockhart, to the Board. Frazer will likely meet with the Board formally at the January Board meeting.

**ADMIN RECORD**

David then reported the following items:

- The billing statements for annual Coalition contributions will be mailed to local governments the following week. Last year the contribution was \$1800, and it may increase by \$100 this year to allow for natural increases in expenses.
- Each local government approved the IGA. It will be effective as of October 27<sup>th</sup>, when Westminster was the last government to approve it.
- David and Kimberly Chleboun are leaving for Washington, D.C. after the Board meeting to participate in a long-term stewardship meeting and meet with Congressional and DOE staff.
- Melissa Anderson compiled a fact sheet on ComRad for the Board in response to a request by Tom Brunner at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Tom had reviewed the information and believes his questions were duly answered.
- The Quarterly Finance Report for the period ending September 30, 2003 is available.

Lorraine Anderson then presented outgoing Board members, Tom Brunner and Lisa Morzel, with gifts commemorating their hard work on the Coalition Board.

**3) FY04 Budget** - David Abelson explained there is a net decrease of \$393 in the FY04 budget, including reductions in meeting expenses, printing, postage and subscriptions. The budget also allows for natural increases in salaries and fringe benefits. He also stated that funding for the budget is in good shape with carryover funds as well as future funding from DOE in the amount of \$250,000 to \$300,000. The Board had no questions.

**4) FY04 Strategic Plan** - David Abelson said all the categories in the strategic plan include continuing work from 2003. He pointed out the changes, including specific cleanup and closure tasks for the upcoming year, and changes in language to capture the new Office of Legacy Management. Lorraine Anderson noted the cities are working with the Rocky Flats workforce on economic development. David explained that the first bullet under the Rocky Flats Workforce 2003 activities is intended to capture that idea. He added that individual governments have been working directly with Kaiser-Hill and the Coalition would intercede if a problem occurs, but as an organization the Coalition is not the primary conduit.

### **Public Comment**

Laurie Shannon (USFWS) said USFWS had finished a rough draft of the CCP/EIS, which is now undergoing internal review. She anticipates the document will be published by late February 2004 and public meetings will begin in early March, although USFWS will meet early with the Coalition refuge subcommittee. Laurie also said a number of USFWS staff have been involved in stabilizing the Lindsay Ranch barn, and the first phase of the project should be completed within the next few weeks. David Abelson advised the Board that Coalition and local government staff are meeting in December to discuss potential areas of agreement on refuge issues between the local governments.

### **Industrial Area Groundwater Strategy**

Chris Dayton (Kaiser-Hill) began by providing a background on the dominant factors controlling groundwater flow at Rocky Flats. Geology consists of unconsolidated materials, shallow bedrock, and deep bedrock aquifers to which there is no impact from Site activities. The hydrology is a semi-arid environment with an average of 15-inches per year of precipitation, which is mostly lost to evapotranspiration. Only one to two inches reaches the groundwater. Chris then showed a diagram of current Industrial Area (IA) hydrology with surface and subsurface components all complicating the hydrology, but which will change as the Site reaches closure. She also described hydrogeology with shallow groundwater flow mimicking topography and flowing toward the closest surface drainages. Groundwater flow is slow, averaging approximately 50-feet per year. Chris emphasized that IA groundwater daylights to surface water before leaving the Site. Chris said another factor to consider is chemical transport as most chemicals in the IA move with the groundwater as dissolved constituents. The rate of movement in the groundwater is dependent on chemical characteristics and reactions with the subsurface environment. The major IA groundwater chemicals are chlorinated solvents (degreasing agents), uranium, and nitrate. Since chemicals degrade to other chemicals, it makes understanding the hydrology a little murky.

Chris then explained the regulatory framework and how part of RFCA's approach to protecting surface water quality is by cleaning up groundwater, and using tiers to trigger monitoring and evaluations of remedial actions. Chris reviewed IA groundwater quality, and stated that there are high levels of background uranium onsite, but they have analytical techniques to distinguish between man-made and natural uranium. The major area of uranium and nitrate groundwater contamination is the former Solar Pond area, which is covered by a groundwater remedial system. VOCs are being evaluated with a groundwater transport model.

Chris reviewed the IA VOC transport modeling, which was developed to provide a decision management tool to evaluate localized flow and contaminant transport for current and hypothetical closure conditions within the IA. Project applications include local-scale modeling of Buildings 771, 991, 881, 371, and the Present Landfill. Also included is IA-scale modeling, modeling to support risk calculations for groundwater VOCs in the Comprehensive Risk Assessment, and to support development of the Groundwater Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA). Chris presented a hypothetical plume signature area example to illustrate how the modeling works by mapping individual VOCs and taking into account source locations and groundwater flow directions. There will be integrated modeling updates at the Water Working Group meetings in November and February, and the IA VOC modeling results report should be drafted by March 2004 and incorporated into the Groundwater IM/IRA. The Groundwater IM/IRA will provide a comprehensive analysis and basis for decision making for the entire IA.

Chris then described the Building 771 integrated hydrologic modeling by showing location maps and a diagram of flow of the carbon tetrachloride groundwater plume around the building's deep basements and slabs to be left in place. The model assumed the building footing drains would not be operational, and then determined: 1) groundwater level buildup behind the vertical walls (potential seeps) are only an issue in the event of three consecutive 100-year events; 2) the potential for groundwater level buildup above the slab can be reduced with a drain; and, 3) plume migration can be captured by a drain. These modeling results will be summarized in the B771 Proposed Action Memorandum (PAM) and detailed as an appendix to the Groundwater IM/IRA. The floor was then opened for questions.

Hank Stovall asked about the time interval required for degradation of one chemical into another, acknowledging dependence on the medium. Chris said it also depends upon the oxygen environment, and environments vary locally and regionally, and could range from months to tens of months. She

added that there is EPA guidance showing how to evaluate natural degradation. Hank asked if they planned to remove the source of the carbon tetrachloride plume, and Chris confirmed they will remove the tank the plume leaked from. Hank asked if the uranium and nitrate plume on the southeast side is increasing or decreasing. Chris clarified that Hank was referring to an area by the Solar Ponds system that is not being captured, but some of the uranium is naturally occurring. She said she was not certain, but would look into it for him.

Lisa Morzel asked about structural geology and if there had been any recent movements along faults. Chris replied the faults are old and they have not seen any evidence of them conveying preferential flow, and inferred faults have been observed to varying degrees with no impact seen on groundwater flow or contaminant transport. David Abelson asked if Kaiser-Hill evaluated the impacts of removing the foundation on groundwater movement. Chris said the project team had not requested modeling of that scenario. David asked if Kaiser-Hill had no interest in investigating the potential impact of removing the foundation and just presumed it would remain, as the Coalition has not bought-off on the idea of leaving foundations in place. Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill) said this option had been taken off the table several years ago due to the enormous excavation into the hillside that would be required and the related issues of disturbance and safety. He further stated that all slabs on grade would be removed, with only deep basements being left where there would be essentially no benefit in their removal. Sam Dixon questioned whether leaving the basements would not be dangerous. Lisa asked if they had looked at groundwater flow throughout the IA keeping in mind the basements being removed or left in place, and the aggregate from which the basements had been composed. Chris confirmed they had looked at IA flow from west to east, regionally to closer in, and that some of the aggregate used was native. Hank asked about the current B771 drainage system and Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill) said the system is working, but she will look into his specific questions on influent.

Dyan Foss then spent a few minutes describing the B771 water collection system and why Kaiser-Hill is drafting a PAM for it. She stated the PAM is being prepared in the event that groundwater flowing under B771/774 needs to be treated, but the PAM would also be referenced by the 771 DOP. The integrated hydrologic modeling indicates that in the event the foundation drain fails and there are extreme weather conditions, the plume could travel under the remains of the building and surface north of the facility. Thus, the groundwater collection system will be installed before the area is backfilled (after demolition scheduled to be completed by April 2004). The PAM will only address the collection system design and installation. Once the IA modeling is complete, an analysis will be conducted of the treatment requirements for the water being collected by the system and will be included in the Groundwater IM/IRA. Dyan added that the existing groundwater treatment systems (East Trenches, Solar Ponds, Mound) will not be addressed in the IM/IRA as they have their own decision documents.

Hank asked if there would be a treatment system on the basin at the west end. Dyan said there would be a treatment system, with a pipe and a series of drainages. Tom Brunner raised the issue of funding for monitoring indefinitely. Chris agreed there is always monitoring associated with groundwater treatment systems, which should be captured in DOE commitments in the future. She said Kaiser-Hill is planning for monitoring at closure which will then wrap into longer term systems. Dyan Foss said in the interim monitoring is captured in the Integrated Monitoring Plan. Tom said long-term stewardship is a big issue, and John Rampe said the Site is working with the Office of Legacy Management to identify, document and plan for such requirements. Lorraine Anderson voiced her concern that a community could discover water quality problems and have to lobby for funds to remediate. John said DOE is trying to set up the systems so that they would know if there was a problem with a remedy before any contamination reached the community. He also said DOE is the responsible party and money would have to come from them if the CERCLA five-year review identifies any problems with remedies.

### **Final Land Configuration/Industrial Area Revegetation**

Bob Davis (Kaiser-Hill) opened his presentation on the Industrial Area (IA) land configuration by describing the project's conceptual approach of providing a stable land surface consistent with the end use of the facility as a wildlife refuge. Bob then explained the process the land configuration working group has been following and how the IA land configuration plan fits into closure. Initial factors considered to develop the current plan include surface- and groundwater quality, and habitat and vegetation conditions in order to use clean soil borrow areas and minimize erosion, and avoid using contaminated soil or soil from sensitive areas. The working group has received feedback from the RFCA parties, Kaiser-Hill, USFWS, and stakeholders and is now working on the final plan for IA land configuration at closure.

Bob reviewed major assumptions and constraints taken into consideration while determining the IA grading plan: minimize total earthwork effort; provide positive surface water drainage; maintain geotechnical stability; limit overall Site erosion; minimize habitat and wetland impacts; and, no return to pre-site conditions. Bob then shared a map which showed grading lines and what the IA could look like once buildings come down. He stated they are tying in grades around buildings to be consistent across areas where buildings once stood so surface water would continue to flow the same way it does currently. There will be specific grade plans for areas with basements and a lot of fill, and the working group is establishing borrow areas for that fill. Lorraine Anderson asked how deep the borrow areas would be and if it could impact groundwater. Bob replied they are analyzing the interaction via modeling and will make adjustments and integrate planning activities before making final plans. There are no lakes or ponds in borrow areas. He then pointed out functional channels (with erosion controls) and major drainages replacing culverts to get surface water off the IA and into Walnut and Woman creeks. Bob stressed that this is a draft plan and there may be changes as it is developed and they interface with the groundwater modeling group.

Bob then listed the following overall IA configuration plan:

- Existing IA grades direct surface water to the east;
- most building areas graded to meet existing, surrounding grade;
- specific grading at Buildings 771/774, 371/374, 991, and 881;
- identified major areas of borrow for fill;
- culverts in major drainages will be replaced with functional channels;
- all parking lots, sidewalks, and IA internal secondary roadways removed, including East; Access, West Access, and North Perimeter Road;
- generally existing major drainage ditches remain;
- undisturbed areas remain undisturbed; and,
- disturbed areas will be revegetated.

Bob next described general guidelines for grading and filling. Revegetation and erosion control requirements will be captured in the Site Revegetation Plan. Hank Stovall asked if borrow areas would impact mineral rights owner's assets. John Rampe (DOE) said he did not anticipate any impacts but he would look into it. David Abelson said the area being discussed is the four sections of land, approximately 2500 acres, in the center of the Site which have subordination agreements and rights cannot be exercised.

Lorraine asked about erosion controls, and Bob explained there will be gentle slopes and structures below grade will have a very gentle grade and no erosion is anticipated, although erosion is anticipated in the areas of ditches. Lorraine said drought and wind can also move dirt, and Bob said they plan to protect against wind erosion with straw and tackifier and ongoing maintenance while revegetating the

surface. Lisa Morzel referred to the three-feet of fill dirt to be used as cover over structures and rubblized concrete fill, and questioned how this criteria was established as it seemed shallow in terms of geologic time and erosion rates. Bob said it might have been part of the RFCA but he was not sure and would look into it. Melissa Anderson noted that Kaiser-Hill had revegetated individual projects, and asked if he knew of the success rates or if they had any lessons learned. Bob stated they have had mixed success. Soil from the outside brought in weeds, but soils in existing revegetation projects are doing pretty well. The seed mix for the native vegetation will take some time to develop, but in the meantime they are also using wheat to help with vegetation and erosion control.

### **Round Robin**

**City of Boulder** - Lisa Morzel said the City of Boulder will not appoint a new Coalition director until January, thus she would stay on until then. David Abelson clarified that Lisa cannot be a director as she would no longer be an elected official, but she will be an alternate with the directorship being vacant.

**Arvada** - Lorraine Anderson said she attended a DOE Environmental Management Advisory Board meeting November 21<sup>st</sup> to speak on behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance before the National Academy of Science regarding nuclear waste transport.

### **Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

### **Big Picture**

David Abelson reviewed the Big Picture. Topics scheduled for the December Board meeting include a briefing on either the refuge Memorandum of Understanding or refuge funding issues. There will also be presentations on the remediation of the deep basements of Building 371, and on surface water and pond configuration. Karen Imbierowicz asked about the timeline of the Udall mineral rights bill, and David said it is unclear, but doubtful it will go anywhere at this time.

At 10:35 a.m. Lorraine Anderson motioned to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel issues and receiving legal advice on such issues, as authorized under Sections 24-6-402 (4) (f) and 24-6-402 (4) (b), C.R.S. Hank Stovall seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. and affirmed that no actions had been taken during Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned by Lorraine Anderson at 11:20 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun, Program Manager*

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